Department of State

PAC 14 VIETS

TELEGRAM

(1349)

CONFIDENTIAL

Saigon 8580 10-15-67

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08580 01 OF 02 151210Z

51
ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SAL 01,SAH 03,
SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,PSC 01,L 03,H 02,P 04,INR 07,
IO 21,AID 30,RSR 01,/143 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szabey DATE 1/21/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P R 150630Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8887
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4557
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2701
AMCONSUL DANANG 1114
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 8580

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE ELECTION PROSPECTS IN EIGHT DELTA PROVINCES

REF: SAIGON 7297, 7414, 7796, 8012, 8007, 8570, 6235, 6815

1. IN THE DELTA THE GENERAL QUALITY OF CANDIDATES FOR THE LOWER HOUSE
SEEMS HIGHER THAN OF THOSE WHO STOOD FOR THE CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR. APPARENTLY THERE IS GENERAL CONFIDENCE
THAT THE LOWER HOUSE WILL HAVE SOME GENUINE POWER AND THAT THE
ROLE OF A DEPTY WILL HAVE REAL SIGNIFICANCE. MANY RESPECTED
LOCAL FIGURES ARE NOT IN THE RACE BUT THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 8580/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
TO THE RATHER WIDESPREAD AVERSION FO SOUTHERNEGS TO FORMAL POLI-

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 08580 01 OF 02 151210Z

TICAL PARTICIPATION. OBSERVERS FREQUENTLY COMMENT ON THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES AND CONCLUDE THAT ABOUT HALF OF THEM

ARE NOT SERIOUS CONTENDERS; THEIR PRESENCE IS SAID ONLY TO CONFUSE THE ELECTORATE.

2. BECASUE OF THIS LARGE NUMBER OF CONTENDERS PLUS THE GENERAL LACK OF FORMAL POLITICALORGANIZATION IN THE DELTA, CAUTION IS PREDICTING THE OUTCOME OF PARTICULAR CONTESTS IS NECESSARY. THE LEADING CANDIDATES WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN OUR REPORTING HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS SUCH MAINLY BECAUSE THEY ARE WELL KNOWN LOCALLY PLUS THE FACT THEY HAVE TIES WITH THE GVN OR SOME RELIGIOUS, LABOR, OR INTELLECTUAL GROUP. RARELY IS "PARTY" AFFILIATION OF SIGNIFICANCE IN THE DELTA (A BRIEF SUMMARY OF LEADING CONTENDERS IN EIGHT DELTA PROVINCES IS INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPHS 6-13 BELOW).

3. THE CAMPAIGN IS OFF TO A SOMEWHAT SLOW START BUT MAY PICK UP CONSIDERABLE STEAM IN FINAL DAYS. OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD BEGAN OCTOBER 6; IN MANY PROVINCES LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES HAVE DECIDED TO LIMIT ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING TO LAST TEN DAYS OR SO. PARTISAN CAMPAIGN MATERIAL IS BEING PRODUCED AT

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 8580/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
LOCAL INITIATIVE (IN MOST CAS
ES WITHIN THE PROVINCE) AND IT IS
JUST NOW BEGINNING TO APPEAR IN SOME QUANTITY. THERE MAY BE SOMEWHAT LESS ENERGY BEING DISPLAYED BY GVN OFFICIALS IN GET OUT THE VOTE ACTIVITY (MOST PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS WILL BE DELIGHTED, WHEN THIS LAST OF FIVE ELECTIONS, TWO OF WHICH SPREAD OVER A TWO-WEEK PERIOD, IS COMPLETED). THIS PAST WEEK, HOWEVER, MICH SUMMONED A NUMBER OF PROVINCIAL VIS CHIEFS TO SAIGON WHERE THEY PRESUMABLY RECEIVED INTRUCTIONS NOT TO ALLOW THEIR EFFORTS TO FLAG. CAMPAINGING SO FAR HAS BEEN LIMITED LARGELY TO INFORMAL BUT OFTEN VIGOROUS CONTACT WITH VOTERS BY CANDIDATES AND THEIR AGENTS. AS NOTED ABOVE, MOST FORMAL CAMPAIGNING AND SPEECH MAKING WILL TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK. A NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ARE CLEARLY INVESTING CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IN THEIR CAMPAIGN.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 08580 01 OF 02 151210Z

4. LOCAL OBSERVERS COMMENT THAT THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF, ALTHOUGH SHORT, WILL INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME AND MAY CHANGE EXPECTED OUTCOME IN SOME AREAS. CAMPAIGN ORGNIZATION IS COMING TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT, ALTHOUGH MONEY AND CONNECTIONS WITH THE GVN OR SOME RELIGIOUS GROUP ARE STILL ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE PERHAPS MOST VITAL ASSETS.

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 8580/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
5. AS IN PAST CAMPAIGNS CANDIDATES ARE STRESSING ECONOMIC REFORM (INCLUDING ELIMINATION OF CORRUPTION), IMPROVED EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. PROMISES OF IMPROVED BENEFITS TO SOLDIERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS ARE ALSO COMMON. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN FEW "PEACE" CANDIATES INDENTIFIED, ALTHOUGH "ENDING THE WAR" IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE A GOOD THING AND A NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FORMALLY INCLUDE SUCH A PLANK IN THEIR PLATFORMS. ONE CANDIDATE, NGUYEN HUU MAT, FROM SA DEC, HAS T
HE WHITE DOVE AS HIS SYMBOL.
SOME MAY BE QUIETLY EMPHASIZING THE PEACE ISSUE BUT AS MOST CANDIDATES GIVE IT AT LEAST LIP SERVICE PEACE OF ITSELF IS NOT LIKELY TO BE DECISIVE IN MANY CONTESTS, IF ANY.

6. KIEN GIANG (SAIGON 7297) - DUE NHUT NGIE - VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN; 2) DANG VAN PHUONG - TRAINED NEWLY ELECTED VILLAGE OFFICIA
LS 3) MAJOR NGUYEN QUANG QUE - FORMER KIEN GIANG PROVINCE CHIEF; 4) LY THANH LE - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPTY; 5) DO THU DIEU - FATHER FORMER KIEN GIANG DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION; 6) NGUYEN VAN KHOA - PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER; 7) NGUYEN TRAN PHUONG - CAO DAI COLONEL; 8) KHU VAN PHU - SCHOOL TEACHER.

7. PHONG DINH (SAIGON 7414) - 1) NGO VAN HIEU - ARVN DOCTOR

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 8580/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
COOPERATING WITH HOA HAO. PLATFORM EMPHASIZES PEACE; 2) NGUYEN VAN HOI - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, CATHOLIC; 3) PHAM VAN HOI -

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 08580 01 OF 02 151210Z

CHAIRMAN PHONG DINH PROVINCE HOA HAO COMMITTEE; 4) NGUYEN THONG QUOC TRACH - SECTOR S-5, HAS LAW DEGREE; 5) TRAN PHUOC KHANH - CHAIRMAN PHONG DINH SOUTHERN BUDDHIST STUDIES ASSOCIATION; PLATFORM EMPHASIZES PEACE; 6) DOAN VAN TRUONG - TEACHER, MOVEMENT FOR RENAISSANCE OF THE SOUTH; 7) TRAN MINH QUANG - SY WEALTHY HOA HAO.

8. DINH TUONG (SAIGON 7796) - 1) PHAM QUANG TINH - LAWYER, CATHOLIC NORTHERN REFUGEE; 2) NGUYEN BA CAN - FORMER LONG AN, VUNG TAU AND DINH TUONG DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION; 3) PHAM VAN NOC - CVT CHAIRMAN AND CHAIRMAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL; 4) PHAM VAN NHET - TEACHER; 5) DANG BAT - MAJOR.

9. VINH LONG (SAIGON 8002) - 1) BUI VAN NHAN - HOA HAO SUPPORTED, FORMER RD WORKER CHIEF; 2) VO TAN ANH - DOCTOR; 3) DAC NGOC THO - ARVN COLONEL, CATHOLIC; 4) PHAM KIM THO - HOA HAO; 5) BUI VAN HIEU - CENSUS GRIEVANCE; 6) TRAN VAN CHIEU - CVT CHAIRMAN; 7) LE QUANG KNH - FORMER CANTON CHIEF; 8) LE VAN THIEU - CATHOLIC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER.
BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State

POL 14 VIET S

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08580 02 OF 02 1512Z9Z

51
ACTION EA-19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SAL 01,SAH 03,
SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,P 02,INR 07,
IO 21,AID 30,RSR 01,/143 W

P R 150630Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8888
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4558
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2762
AMCONSUL DANANG 1115
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 8580

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

10. VINH BINH (SAIGON 8007) - 1) KIEN SOT - CHAIRMAN OF THERAVADDA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION, BROTHER ID DEPTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOF SECURITY; 2) NGUYEN VAN THANH - FORMER VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF; 3) HUYNH CHI CONG - FORMER VINH BINH DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR ADMINISTRATION; 4) NGUYEN VAN LOC - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY; 5) NGUYEN THAN DO - TRANSPORT UNION OFFICIAL.

11. CHAU DOC (SAIGON 8570) - 1) HUYNH VAN LAU -HOA HAO LEADER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY; 2) HOA VAN LANG - HOA HAO LEADER,

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 8580/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY; 3) VO VAN GIOI - CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND HOA HAO VETERANS ASSOCIATION; 4) LE CHOU

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 08580 02 OF 02 151209Z

TINH - FORMER HOA HAO MILITARY OFFICER; 5) NGUYEN HUU TRINH - MEMBER PROVINCIAL COUNCIL; 6) TRAN QUOC KHAN - NON-HOA-HAO, BROTHER OF CVT LEADER TRAN QUOC BUU; 7) CHAU SOCAN - ARVN MAJOR, FORMER DISTRICT CHIEF.

12. AN GIANG (SAIGON 6235) - 1) NGUYEN THANH KINH; 2) NGUYEN VAN HUE AND 3) TRAN VAN LANH, ALL ON PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND PROVINCIAL HOA HAO COMMITTEE; 4) DOAN VAN CUONG - FORMER KIEN GIANG PROVINCE CHIEF; 5) NGUYEN VAN HAANH, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, FORMERLY CHAIRMAN PROVINCIAL HOA HAO COMMITTEE, 6) TRAN THI HOA - ~~WIFE OF DECEASED~~ HOA-HAO GENERAL BA CUT; 7) MA XAI - ARVN DOCTOR; 7&8) HOANG NGOC THANH AND VO VAN TOT - CATHOLIC; 9) LE HONG XUONG - WIFE OF KIEN GIANG PROVINCE CHIEF.

13. SA DEC (SAIGON 6815) - 1) NGUYEN LONG GIAO - HOA HAO, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY; 2) NGUYEN VAN VI - HOA HAO, NATIONALE ASSEMBLY DEPUTY; 3) HO VAN THOM - ARVN MAJOR, SUPPORTED BY TRAN VAN DON; 4) VO VAN THANH, CHAIRMAN SA DEC VILLAGE PEOPLES COUNCIL; 5) NGUYEN THANH DON - CHIEF CLERK SAIGON LAW COURT. PLATFORM EMPHASIZES PEACE. BUNKER

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED